

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

/055 W

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R 190921Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4126

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, JO

SUBJECT: ROYAL DECREE POSTPONES JORDANIAN PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTION FOR ONE YEAR

1. LOCAL PAPERS MARCH 18 PRINT ROYAL DECREE WHICH POSTPONES
ELECTIONS TO JORDANIAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR UP TO
ONE YEAR, BEGINNING TODAY. HAD DECREE NOT BEEN ISSUED,
GOJ WOULD HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO HOLD ELECTIONS BEFORE
MAR 23, SINCE CONSTITUTION ALLOWS ONLY FOUR-MONTH GRACE
PERIOD AFTER DISSOLUTION (IN THIS CASE, NOVEMBER 3, 1974)
BEFORE NEW ELECTIONS REQUIRED. ACCORDING TO CONSTITUTION,
IF ONE YEAR NOW PASSES WITHOUT FIXING NEW DATE FOR ELEC-
TIONS, FORMER HOUSE OF REPS WILL BE RESTORED.

2. COMMENT: DECREE HAS EFFECT OF POSTPONING
ELECTIONS AS LATE AS MARCH 1976. WE SUSPECT
STEP IS INTENDED BY GOJ AS STALL TACTIC. HOLD-
ING HOUSE OF REPS ELECTIONS WOULD RAISE DIFFICULT
ISSUE OF "WHO IS JORDANIAN" AT TIME WHEN KING
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HAS NO DESIRE TO FORCE JORDANIAN-PALESTINIAN NATION-

ALITY ISSUE. PRIME MINISTER AND KING BOTH EARLIER SIGNALLED TO US
STRONG POSSIBILITY OF POSTPONEMENT. PRESENT
ACTION APPEARS TO BE FURTHER EXAMPLE OF POST-
RABAT POLICY OF GOING SLOW ON TAKING ANY FURTHER
CONSTITUTIONAL STEPS THAT WOULD LIMIT JORDAN'S
MANUVERABILITY ON UNCERTAIN PALESTINIAN/JORDANIAN/
WEST BANK ISSUE.
PICKERING

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NNN

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05 JUL 2006

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